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## *Data-Gathering Efforts Described As Part of Campaign for Reagan*

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 6 — An operation to collect inside information on Carter Administration foreign policy was run within Ronald Reagan's campaign headquarters in the 1980 Presidential campaign, according to present and former Reagan Administration officials.

These sources said they did not know exactly what information the operation produced or whether it was anything beyond the usual grab bag of rumors and published news reports. But they said it involved a number of retired Central Intelligence Agency officials and was highly secretive.

The sources identified Stefan A. Halper, a campaign aide involved in providing 24-hour news updates and policy ideas to the traveling Reagan party, as the person in charge. Mr. Halper was out of town today and could not be reached. But Ray S. Cline, his father-in-law, a former senior Central Intelligence official, rejected it all as a "romantic fallacy."

### Investigations Under Way

The disclosure was the latest development in a furor over revelations that Reagan campaign officials came into possession of Carter debate strategy papers before a debate between the two candidates. The matter is now being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a Congressional committee.

Mr. Halper nominally worked for Robert Garrick, the director of campaign operations, who said in a telephone interview recently that Mr.

Halper was "supposed to help with communications, but I kind of thought he had another agenda going — he was always on the phone with the door closed, and he never called me in and discussed it with me."

Responding to inquiries about the gathering of information in the campaign, a high Reagan Administration official said there was a memorandum from a junior campaign official to several senior Reagan campaign aides citing the need for information from within the Carter Administration on foreign policy decisions. The official said

Mr. Halper was not the junior official. CBS News reported tonight that Edwin Meese 3d, a top Reagan campaign aide, now the President's counselor, denied seeing a campaign memorandum from a volunteer, identified as Dan Jones, suggesting that there was a secret agent inside the Carter Administration. CBS News reported that the memorandum had been addressed to James A. Baker 3d and William J. Casey, prominent officials in the Reagan election effort.

Speaking of Mr. Halper, David Prosser, a Reagan campaign aide, now with Superior Oil Co., said, "He provided us with wire stories and Carter speeches, but people talked about his having a network that was keeping track of things inside the Government, mostly in relation to the October surprise."

The Reagan campaign team used the term "October surprise" to refer to the possibility that President Carter might take some dramatic action with regard to the hostage situation in Iran or some other action to try to turn the tide of the election.

Mr. Casey, now the Director of Central Intelligence, who was Mr. Reagan's campaign director, said in an interview Tuesday that this was of special concern to Reagan strategists. He said Mr. Garrick had spoken of using retired military officers to watch military airfields for the dispatching of hospital aircraft for the hostages.

A source from the Reagan campaign who asked not to be named said, "There was some C.I.A. stuff coming from Halper, and some agency guys were hired." He added that he was never aware that this information was particularly useful and that he and others had their own sources within the Administration who provided unsolicited information.

### Receipt of Security Papers

The same source said Richard V. Allen, Mr. Reagan's chief campaign foreign policy adviser and his first national security adviser, received classified National Security Council documents from a Carter Administration official. Mr. Allen has previously acknowledged that he received material which he described as "innocuous" and dealing with morale on the N.S.C. staff.

According to the sources, Mr. Halper worked closely with David R. Gergen on the staff of George Bush when Mr. Bush, was seeking the Republican Presidential nomination. The sources said that Mr. Gergen, Director of White House Communications, and Mr. Baker, another top Bush campaign aide and now an assistant to Mr. Reagan, brought Mr. Halper onto the Reagan campaign staff after the Republican convention.

Mr. Bush was director of Central Intelligence under President Ford and former Bush aides said today that many former C.I.A. officials offered their help in the Bush campaign effort. The former aides said that Mr. Bush himself was against anything that might smack of "C.I.A. support."

### No Response From Gergen

Mr. Gergen declined to return several telephone calls. Instead, he telephoned Mr. Cline, Mr. Halper's father-in-law, and Mr. Cline contacted The New York Times.

Later, a source close to Mr. Gergen telephoned to say that Mr. Gergen was "unaware of any organized intelligence operation of the kind described, but that he was aware that Mr. Halper was working on issues and the development of information for the campaign."

The source added, "There was definitely no reporting relationship to either Gergen or Baker during the campaign effort."

Mr. Cline said Mr. Halper was on a "special staff to analyze campaign issues, just as he did in the Bush campaign, and that he was responsible for looking for booby traps and studying what Carter people were saying to look for vulnerabilities."

He added: "I think this is all a romantic fallacy about an old C.I.A. network. I believe I have been close enough to the intelligence community for the last 40 years that I would have discovered it. Such an effort would not have been worthwhile and I believe it was not executed. That does not mean that some individual or individuals didn't do something, but there was not a deliberate effort to penetrate" the Government.

Mr. Halper's personal secretary, who now works at the White House, was reached at her home through the White House switchboard, and when asked about an information gathering network run by Mr. Halper in the campaign, she hung up. White House operators then said she was "unavailable."

None of the sources said they knew of any relationship between Mr. Halper

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